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A Shady Lane

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Some few dirt roads leading off from concrete highways are worth the attention of the passerby.

One such has been a shady lane for over fifty years. In those earlier days Virginia rail fences topped both of its siltlike slopes. Cows were pastured in the grassy apple orchard at the north while tobacco or potatoes and vegetables were raised in the lot on the south. At that time pussy willow, fragrant grapevines, chokecherry and chokeberry, small elms along the fences, formed two green hedgerows in summer. On the north side, 210 feet from a farmer's driveway, stood two big chestnut trees, and opposite the larger was a red maple. In the autumn the burrs fell among yellow brakes and the nuts were half hidden among the mosses. A few blueberries and small blackberries ripened under the maple.

Seasonally the selectman's helper cut the bushes because their wet foliage and branches brushed against an occasional passing carriage. Cutting is still continued in late summer before the "hay fever" season comes on.

Chestnut trees, apple orchard and gray fences disappeared long ago but the big red maple (now $9\frac{1}{2}$ feet in girth 3 feet from the ground) remains. One large elm has grown up on the north side of the lane.

Within the past 20-25 years, the farmer set out a row of hemlocks (7) and spruces (2) along the top of the south ridge. Within 5 years he has added white pines (11) filling the space between the older evergreens. Two big apple trees close to his driveway help to make a continuous shade for the northfacing bank in summer. In spring it holds ice and snow about two weeks longer than the sunfacing slope—much as in a forest ravine.

The slopes, discounting the road ditch of varying width and depth, are about 8 feet wide and are covered with a mass of compact foliage apparently made up of ferns. However, a surprisingly

large number of other plants grow with them as shown in the following estimate made in July.

NORTH AND SOUTH BANKS

<i>Acer rubrum</i> N(1) S(5)	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i> N(2) S(1)
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i> N(3) S(1)	<i>Vitis labrusca</i> N(2) S(1)
<i>Betula populifolia</i> N(60) S(5)	<i>Lactuca canadensis</i> N(2) S(2)
<i>Corylus americana</i> N(2) S(1)	<i>Maianthemum canadense</i> N 1* S 1*
<i>Ligustrum ibota</i> N(1) S(3)	<i>Poa pratensis</i> N 1* S 1*
<i>Prunus serotina</i> N(45) S(16)	<i>Prenanthes alba</i> N(2) S(1)
<i>Prunus virginiana</i> N(31) S(1)	<i>Polygonatum giganteum</i> N(1) S(1)
<i>Pyrus malus</i> (var. ?) N(3) S(1)	<i>Asplenium Filix-femina</i> N(3) 6* S(3) 8*
<i>Quercus palustris</i> N(22) S(3)	<i>Lycopodium obscurum</i> v. dendroid- eum N 1* S 1*
<i>Quercus velutina</i> N(2) S(1)	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i> N 2* S(5)
<i>Rhus Toxicodendron</i> N 2* S 3*	<i>Osmunda Claytoniana</i> N(15) S 8*
<i>Rubus hispidus</i> N 3* S1*	<i>Polytrichum commune</i> N 1* S 1*
<i>Spiraea latifolia</i> N(21) 3* S(3)	
<i>Ulmus americana</i> N(2) S(3)	

NORTH BANK

<i>Acer dasycarpum</i> (2)	<i>Asclepias seriaca</i> (3)
<i>Aronia atropurpurea</i> (1)	<i>Aster cordifolius</i> (4)
<i>Clematis virginiana</i> (2)	<i>Aster laevis</i> (4)
<i>Cornus florida</i> (3)	<i>Bartonia virginica</i> (9)
<i>Cornus paniculata</i> (1)	<i>Diosmodium</i> (sp. ?) (5)
<i>Gaylussacia baccata</i> (8)	<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i> (1)
<i>Lencothoe racemosa</i> (4)	<i>Hieracium canadense</i> 1*
<i>Pinus Strobus</i> (6)	<i>Houstonia caerulea</i> (1)*
<i>Populus deltoides</i> (1)	<i>Lysimachia quadrifolia</i> 1*
<i>Pseuderis quinquefolia</i> (1)	<i>Panicum</i> (sp. ?) 1*
<i>Rosa humilis</i> (1)	<i>Polygala sanguinea</i> 1*
<i>Rubus villosus</i> 3*	<i>Potentilla canadensis</i> (5)
<i>Rubus</i> (sp. ?) 1*	<i>Pycnanthemum lanceolatum</i> 3*
<i>Salix discolor</i> (1)	<i>Solidago lanceolata</i> (5)
<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i> (1)	<i>Solidago rugosa</i> (20) 1*
<i>Vitis cordifolia</i> (?) (1)	<i>Viola sagittata</i> (6)
<i>Achillea Millefolium</i> (3)	<i>Pteris aquilina</i> 6*
<i>Andropogon scoparius</i> (25)	

SOUTH BANK

<i>Berberis Thunbergii</i> (2)	<i>Erythronium americanum</i> 1*
<i>Carya ovata</i> (1)	<i>Geranium maculatum</i> (1)
<i>Fagus americana</i> (1)	<i>Hydrocotyle americana</i> 3*
<i>Robinia Pseudo-Acacia</i> (1)	<i>Lysimachia Nummularia</i> (1)
<i>Tsuga canadensis</i> (21)	<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i> 1*
<i>Vaccinium pennsylvanicum</i> 1*	<i>Ranunculus abortivus</i> (1)
<i>Aralia nudicaulis</i> 1*	<i>Sedum purpureum</i> (4)

Taraxacum officinale (1)
Thaspium aureum (1)
Oakesia sessilifolia 1*
Viola cucullata 1*
Aspidium Thelypteris 3*
Aspidium noveboracense (1)

Dicksonia punctilobula 7*
Lycopodium clavatum 1*
Lycopodium complanatum 1*
Osmunda cinnamomea (1)
Osmunda regalis (1)
Polystichum acrostichoides (2)

() Individual plants.

* Colonies.

Note—Gray's Manual 7th Edition was used for plant determinations.

Doubtless other areas of equal extent on country roads surpass this in number of varieties but as a meeting place of plants from different habitats it presents an interesting spot for study for here are found:

1. Conditions for successful germination of hemlocks.
2. A distribution of plants somewhat determined by light conditions.
3. The formation of new colonies and continuation of old ones.
4. An establishment of garden species among the native plants.
5. Plant dissemination carried out by many different means.

Can we not find many of our highways still offering opportunities for study of plant life for our young people?

WINDSOR LOCKS, CONN.
